BIRD CALENDAR – 1927 – 23RD YEAR

Bulletin No. 3, May 2 – June 4

Do birds think, that is to say, reason after the manner of Human beings? Can it be asserted with authority that at least some birds do reason? What is the difference between instinct and reason? Or is there, physiologically speaking, any difference whatever? Many of us nature lovers have probably been personally observant of various incidents and actions of individual birds as well as of Carnivora, that were so similar to those of the genus Homo, that seemed to us almost impossible for them to be, in the physiological sense, of different origins.

The writer's attention has only recently been called to two or three rare and astonishing incidents. A week or two ago – in the last days of the month of May, Mr. Cooper, a member of the faculty of the Cleveland School of Art, and an experienced observer of birds, put some hardtack in the feeding-box at his home in East Cleveland, which was 'attacked' almost immediately by a Bronzed Grackle. After many vain efforts to crack the hard piece of bread, so that he could eat it, he picked it up (apparently deliberately) in his beak and walking to the nearby pan of water dropped it in and let it lie in the water until it was soft; then he ate the entire piece. When Dean Henry Turner Bailey (from whom the writer received the story) told Mrs. Bailey about Mr. Cooper's Grackle, she remarked that she also had more than once seen Grackles (seemingly deliberately) drop hard pieces of bread into the water-pan, and then eat them after the bread had become soft.

Dean Bailey himself was an eye-witness of an even more remarkable incident not many days ago, at his own feeding-box. He was watching a "bunch" of English Sparrows, thickly clustered around the feeding-box, and busily feeding as, perhaps, only sparrows can feed. Suddenly a male Grackle lighted on the box close behind the busy sparrows and for a few seconds observed them intently in silence; then he walked up closer to them and gave one of the sparrows a savage peck on the back of the head. The sparrow keeled over on his side, and the Grackle pecked him in the head again, in order to "finish" him completely. Then in a jiffy, the Grackle ate the Sparrow's brains – cleaned out the small brain-pan entirely. The following morning Mr. Bailey found nothing of the sparrow-carcass left but the wing and tail feathers. The Grackle had devoured the sparrow as completely as a Sparrow Hawk might have done!

The following list, though not quite so long as the corresponding Bulletins of the two or three years preceding, contains several birds which are not recorded in those bulletins. On the whole, fewer water-birds, especially ducks, have been reported this spring than usual:

83. Water Thrush; May 2, Wade Park; May 8, Rockefeller Park.
84. Acadian Flycatcher; May 3, Wade Park.
85. Palm Warbler; May 3 (several) Wade Park.
86. Red-headed Woodpecker; May 3, Wade Park; May 8, Dean Bailey, Lake View; May 14, Burroughs Nature Club, Willoughby, and frequently in Wade Park since.

87. Baltimore Oriole; May 5, Mrs. Hulme, Hessler Road; May 6, Donald Hulme, College of Women Campus; May 9, Professor Finfrock, Oak Road.
88. Black and White Warbler; May 8, Dean Bailey, Lake View; same date, Donald Hulme, Wade Park; May 14, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
89. Black-throated Blue Warbler; May 8, Dean Bailey, Lake View; same date, Donald Hulme, Wade Park; May 14, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
90. Black-throated Green Warbler; May 8, Dean Bailey, Lake View; May 9, Donald Hulme, Wade Park; May 14, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
91. Chebec; May 8, Donald Hulme, Wade Park and Rockefeller Park; May 14, B.N.C., Fairport; May 22, Dean Bailey, Lake View.
92. Gray-cheeked Thrush; May 8, Dean Bailey, Lake View; May 13, Professor Finfrock, Oak Road.
93. Kentucky Warbler; May 8, Donald Hulme, Wade Park.
94. Prothonotary Warbler; May 8, Dean Bailey, Lake View.
95. Bicknell's [Gray-cheeked] Thrush; May 9, Wade Park.
96. Blackpoll Warbler; May 9, Donald Hulme, Hessler Road.
97. Chimney Swift; May 9, Professor Finfrock, Oak Road; May 10 (several), College for Women Campus and Wade Park; May 22, Dean Bailey, Lake View.
98. Indigo Bunting; May 9, Professor Finfrock, Oak Road; May 22, Dean Bailey, Lake View.
99. Magnolia Warbler; May 9, Donald Hulme, Hessler Road; May 14, B.N.C, Mentor Marsh.
100. Orchard Oriole; May 9, Professor Finfrock, Oak Road.
101. Redstart; May 9, Donald Hulme, Wade Park; May 14, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
102. Blackburnian Warbler; May 10, Rockefeller Park; May 14, B.N.C., Willoughby.
103. Chestnut-sided Warbler; May 10, Donald Hulme, Hessler Road and Wade Park (several).
104. Little Green Heron; May 10, Donald Hulme, Rockefeller Park; May 14, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
105. Night Hawk; May 10 Donald Hulme, Hessler Road; May 14, Professor Finfrock, Oak Road; May 22, Dean Bailey, Lake View.
106. Rose-breasted Grosbeak; May 10, Wade Park; May 14, B.N.C., Willoughby.
107. Southern Mocking Bird; May 10, Wade Park.
108. Spotted Sandpiper; May 10 and several times later (several), Rockefeller Park.
109. Warbling Vireo; May 10, Donald Hulme, Adelbert Road; May 14, B.N.C., Jopling's Woods.
110. Cape May Warbler; May 13, Professor Finfrock, Oak Road; May 18, Wade Park.
111. Mourning Warbler; May 13, Professor Finfrock, Oak Roadk.
112. Bay-breasted Warbler; May 14, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh; May 18, Donald Hulme, Hessler Road and Rockefeller Park.
113. Black-throated Gray Warbler, May 14, Donald Hulme, Rockefeller Park.
114. Blue-winged Warbler; May 14, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
115. Bobolink; May 14, B.N.C., Fairport; May 29, Kinsman Road.
116. Carolina Wren; May 14, Captain Simmons, Fairport.
117. Caspian Tern; May 14, B.N.C., Fairport.

118. Gallinule; May 14, B.N.C., Fairport.
119. Golden-winged Warbler, May 14, Donald Hulme, Rockefeller Park; May 18, same observer, Hessler Road.
120. Great Crested Flycatcher; May 14, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh; May 22, Dean Bailey, Lake View; May 28, Donald Hulme, New Philadelphia, Ohio.
121. Great Horned Owl; May 14, B.N.C., Jopling's Woods.
122. Kingbird; May 14, B.N.C., Willoughby; May 15, Dean Bailey, Lake View; May 28, Donald Hulme, New Philadelphia, Ohio.
123. Long-billed Marsh Wren; May 14, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
124. Maryland Yellow Throat; May 14, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh; May 18, Wade Park; May 22, Dean Bailey, Lake View.
125. Oven Bird; May 14, B.N.C., Fairport.
126. Pectoral Sandpiper; May 14, Captain Simmons, Fairport.
127. Red-eyed Vireo; May 14, Captain Simmons, Fairport; May 22, Dean Bailey, Lake View; May 29, Wade Park.
128. Red-tailed Hawk; May 14, B.N.C., Jopling's Woods.
129. Ring-billed Gull; May 14, Captain Simmons, Fairport.
130. Rough-winged Swallow; May 14, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
131. Scarlet Tanager; May 14, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
132. Semipalmated Plover; May 14, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
133. Spotted Tern [sic; unknown species]; May 14, Captain Simmons, Fairport.
134. Swamp Sparrow; May 14, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
135. Virginia Rail; May 14, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
136. Yellow-throated Vireo; May 14, B.N.C., Willoughby.
137. Swainson's Warbler; May 18, Wade Park.
138. Ruby-throated Hummingbird; May 22, Professor Finfrock, Oak Road.
139. Semipalmated Sandpiper; May 22, Dean Bailey, Lake View.
140. Wood Pewee; May 22, Dean Bailey, Lake View; June 2, Rockefeller Park.
141. Pileated Woodpecker; May 26, Mr. B. Averbach, Squire Estate, SOM Center and Cedar Roads.
142. Dickcissel; May 30, Professor Finfrock, West Central Ohio.